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Defector's High Life Disclosed

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Six months ago Arkady Shevchenko was proclaimed to be a Soviet spy who came in from the cold, quitting his \$87,000-a-year United Nations post to seek refuge in the United States.

Two months later, he was touring the sunny Caribbean with a female escort, paying her \$3,000 a month for her companionship with CIA funds, she claimed on national television last night.

Judy Chavez, the American escort, indicated in an interview with NBC television that she plans to write a book about her fling with the former Soviet diplomat. Shevchenko gave her a check for \$9,000 to buy a sports car and then, in June, took her to a resort in the Virgin Islands for a holiday, she said.

Shevchenko's high living so concerned the Central Intelligence Agency that she said at one point FBI agents called her and requested "an emergency meeting" to determine exactly how much cash the former Soviet diplomat was passing on to her. She estimated that she had received between \$35,000 and \$40,000.

"What they told me," she said, "was that Arkady goes to a high official in the CIA. He, in turn, gives the money to Arkady who in turn gave the money to me."

After Chavez' revelation was aired yesterday a CIA spokesman acknowledged that the intelligence agency was indeed giving Shevchenko a regular stipend "to help him along until he becomes established in his own identity." The spokesman said the arrangement was "pretty standard" for defectors, but he declined to say how much Shevchenko was paid.

Shevchenko, asked at a downtown restaurant about Chavez's claim, was reluctant to comment. He told NBC, "I would like to avoid meeting with the press for the time being. I'm settling down. Everything is all right now."

Later, pressed on the source of the money, he said, "I got a lot of money from the United Nations." Asked about the Virgin Islands trip, he said, "I had enough money; it was not expensive."

According to Chavez, the former Soviet diplomat maintained a checking account of about \$50,000 in a bank here. Shevchenko's former attorney, Ernest A. Gross, said last night that Shevchenko settled with the United Nations for \$78,000 when he left his post as under secretary general. Shevchenko moved to the District of Columbia in May, said Gross.

Chavez said that Shevchenko gave her \$500 a night after she met him through an escort service. As the arrangement became more regular she said he paid her \$5,000 every month.

The 47-year-old former U.N. official is the highest-ranking defector ever to leave the Soviets. When he announced through his attorney that he would not go home Soviet officials attempted to claim that he was being held in the United States "under duress." The charge was denied by Gross at the time as "ludicrous."

After Shevchenko defected, there were reports from Moscow in May that his wife, Leongina, had died from an overdose of sleeping pills.

Gross said yesterday that Shevchenko, who NBC said was living in a luxury apartment house under an assumed Finnish name, had received several offers of jobs from universities and that several publishers also were seeking to have him write a book.

The CIA's spokesman said that while Shevchenko is kept under "pretty close tabs" he is allowed to move about freely.

"We are aware of what he is doing," the spokesman said. "What he does with his money is his business."

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